

SALEM, OREGON
OREGON STATESMAN

m. 28,203

S. 29,267

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

JUN 26 1964

Date:

FOIAb3b

IT SEEMS
TO ME...*By Charles F. Sprague*

CPYRGHT

A recently published book, "The Invisible Government," by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, is an expose of the Central Intelligence Agency. Its work of espionage makes it "invisible" if it is to function successfully. But the authors build up a case that the CIA is not only invisible, it is "irresponsible." That is, it is an action agency as well as a fact-gathering and weighing agency, and as an action agency it operates without restraint from Congress, often without the knowledge of this body, and apparently with marked freedom from the executive branch of government.

Another recent book giving a detailed narrative of the Bay of Pigs affair reveals the active role paid in that debacle by the CIA. There was the mysterious "Frank" who remains unidentified to the public, who served as a liaison between the CIA and the Cuban exiles. He seems to have had a lot to do with organizing the invasion, supplying it, and building up their hopes of ample U.S. support, particularly air cover.

The failure of the CIA properly to appraise Castro's vulnerability to invasion was freely discussed after the failure at Bay of Pigs. Allen Dulles, the then director, offered to resign. But there was never an official and public accounting. The American people do not know to what degree the CIA was deficient in its forecast or in its organization of the attempt to overthrow Castro. President Kennedy manfully assumed the blame; but that did not give the public any assessment of the failure of the agencies on whom he relied.

Likewise there has never been any accounting of the role of the CIA in Viet Nam. About the time of the Buddhist demonstrations against the Diem regime and the ensuing coup which overthrew it,

there were reports that the CIA was active in Viet Nam, a parallel if not a competing factor to the U.S. embassy and the U.S. military command.

That the CIA is still operating as a secret and quasi-independent arm of the government is the conclusion drawn from what happened recently in the Congo. A rebel group, said to be under leadership of a Communist, has been buffeting the troops of the central Congo government in parts of Katanga province. Then came word that some U.S. T28 combat planes had reached the Congo. It was reported that a few American civilians were being employed by the Congo government on training missions. When news came that they were flying combat missions against the rebels the State Department denied the report. A few days ago State confessed it had been in error, that Americans had been engaged in combat missions in the Congo. State claimed it had been deceived in the affair and that the flights would stop. When the spokesman for the department was asked if

the CIA had recruited the fliers and supervised the operation he responded, "No comment."

The inference is left that again the CIA is functioning as an actionist body, independent of the established agencies. Its previous performance pretty well disproves its qualifications to function in this manner. And anyway we ought not to be assuming any policing duty in the Congo.

Just who is minding the store if the CIA has free rein?

Congress dutifully appropriates hundreds of millions of dollars to finance the Central Intelligence Agency. But Congress is kept in the dark over the ramifications of CIA operations. It gets no accounting for the way the funds are used.

Spying of course is a highly secretive enterprise; but there should be some way to keep the CIA from superseding the State department, shouldering out of the way the Department of Defense and trying both to define and to carry out a foreign policy of its own devising.